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Zoo Babies

 BOOKS FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS
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A caracal kitten in a zoo has a checkup.

By Donna K. Grosvenor
With Photographs by the Author

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What a sleepy polar bear!

The cub named Cheechako opens his mouth in a big yawn.

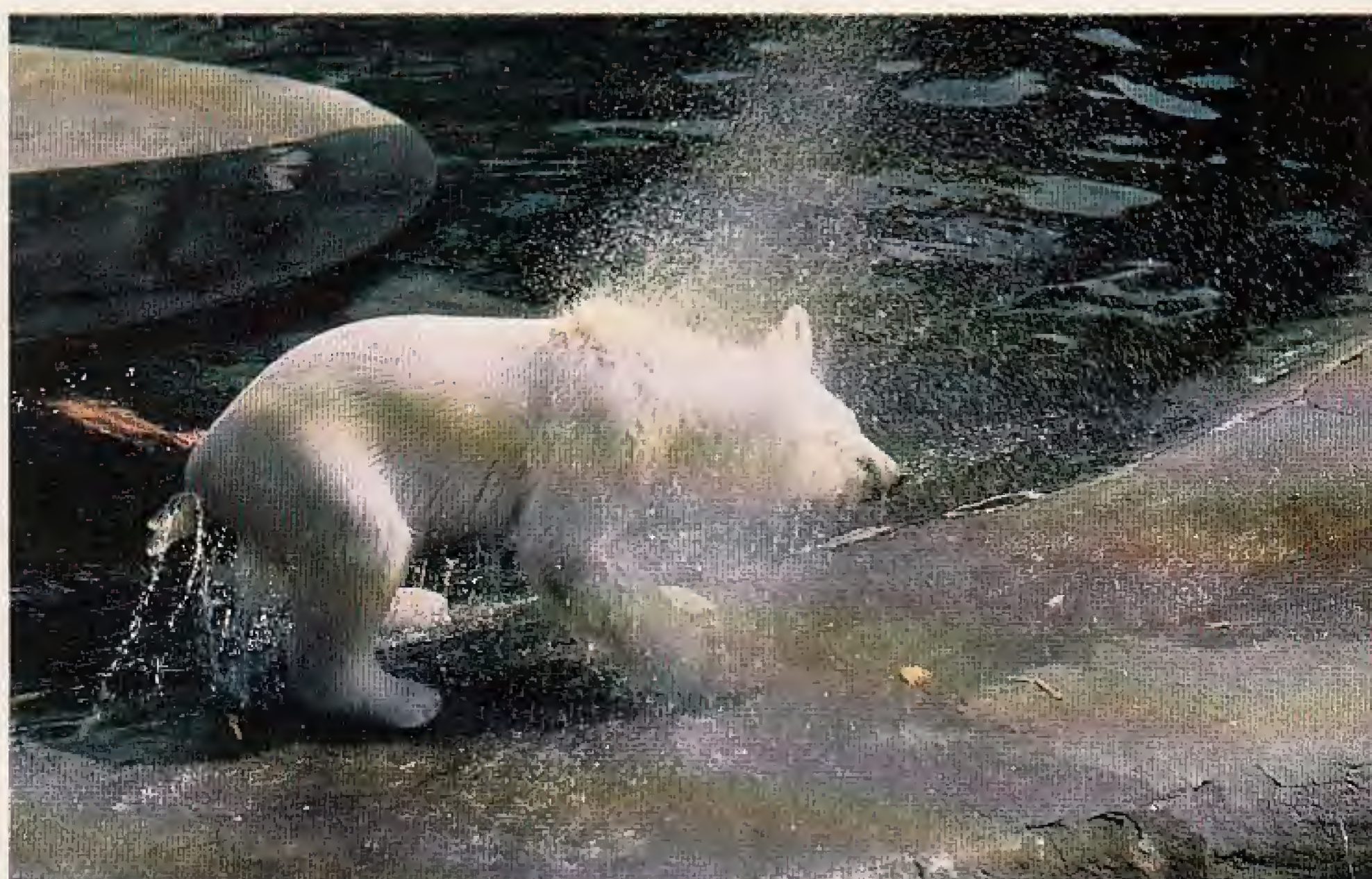


POLAR BEAR, ARCTIC

The little cub snuggles close to his mother when he sleeps.
Soon he will be ready to play.



Cheechako and his mother play a game with a log.
The cub dives after the log and does a belly flop into the water.
Like all polar bears, Cheechako is a very good swimmer.
Soon he climbs out of the pool
and shakes the water from his thick, shaggy fur.
Cheechako looks cuddly as he stretches out in the sun.
But he is a wild animal and can be dangerous.
Polar bears live in the cold Arctic. But Cheechako and his mother
live in a zoo, where there are many other animals.





ASIAN ELEPHANT, SOUTHERN ASIA



A baby elephant called Shanthi enjoys the water, too. One morning, Shanthi walks outside. It is her bath time, and a keeper at the zoo pushes Shanthi into the water.

Shanthi reaches for the red ball with her trunk.

The elephant uses its trunk to pick up things.

Trunks also make wonderful hoses.

Shanthi fills her trunk with water and gives herself a shower.

Zoos are places where you can see different kinds of animals.

If you watch the animals very carefully,
you can learn many things about them.





Meerkats are small animals from Africa. These meerkats live in a zoo.

Young meerkats wrestle and nip each other as they play. When it is time to rest, the meerkats will go down into their burrows in the ground. Zoo keepers make sure the meerkats have the sandy soil they need for their home. It takes a lot of care and work to make a zoo a happy, healthy home for animals.





MEERKAT OR SURICATE, SOUTHERN AFRICA







A baby koala
called Gumdrops
clings to
his mother's fluffy fur.
Koalas eat only
the leaves and buds
of eucalyptus trees.
The keepers give
the koalas
fresh branches
every day.
The keepers try
to make
a koala's zoo home
like a home
in the wild.





Feeding time!

Some zoo babies don't get enough milk from their mothers.

This keeper fills bottles with milk in a zoo kitchen.

Hungry antelopes drink their milk down to the very last drop.

A tiny kangaroo wrapped in a blanket takes its bottle.

The little leopard has licked its bowl clean.



KANGAROO, AUSTRALIA



LEOPARD, AFRICA AND ASIA

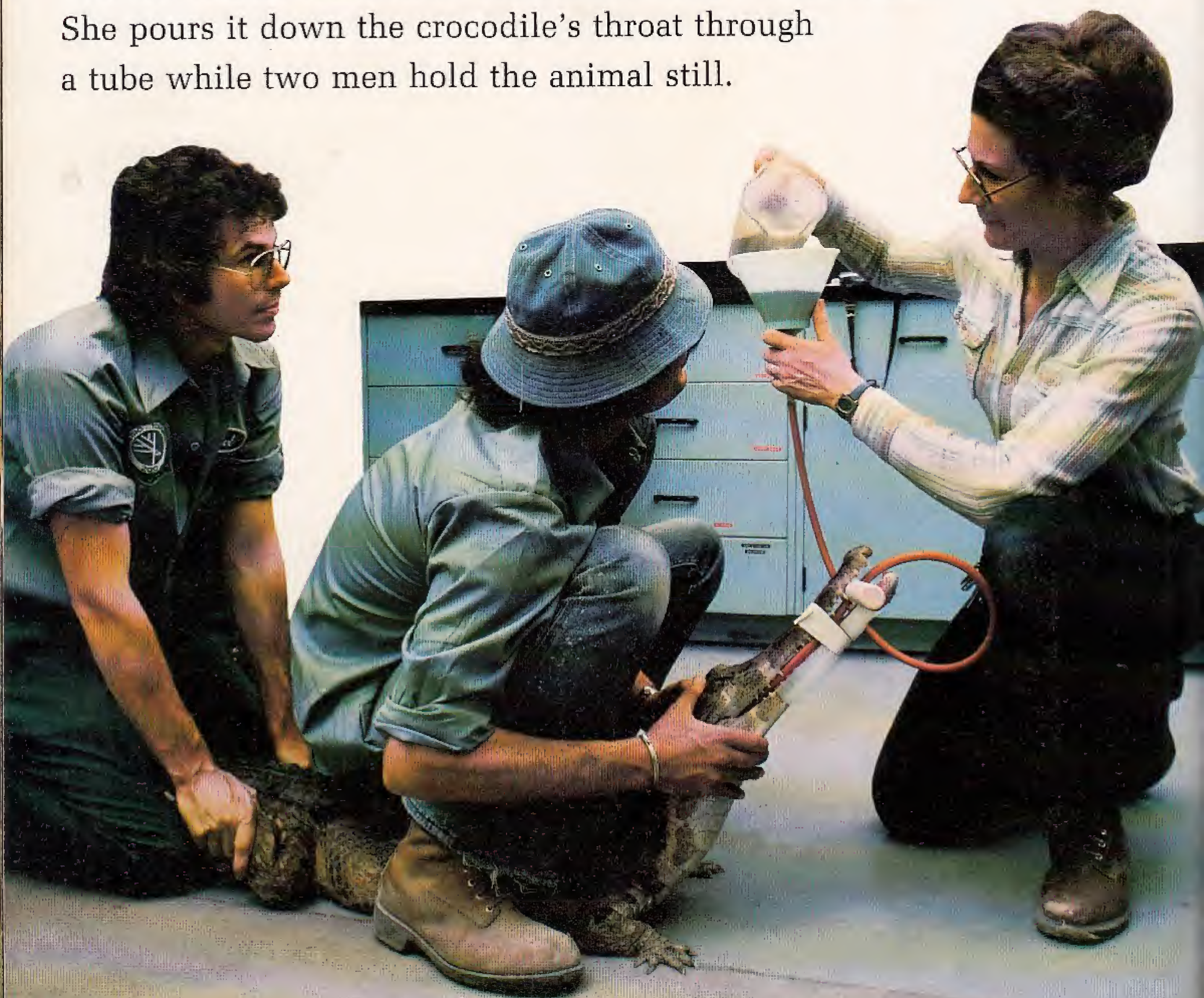


FALSE GAVIAL, SOUTHEAST ASIA

Zoos have animal doctors, called veterinarians. This young crocodile broke its lower jaw. The doctor made a splint to hold the bone in place. The tape keeps the jaw from moving.

But how would the crocodile eat?

The zoo doctor mashed its food and mixed it with water. She pours it down the crocodile's throat through a tube while two men hold the animal still.







Zoo doctors are very busy. This baby Dall sheep has weak legs, and a veterinarian bandages them until they grow strong. The mother watches and tries to nuzzle her baby. A newborn camel gets a shot, and a baby zebra gets a new bandage for a cut on its leg. Zoo animals also have checkups to make sure they stay healthy.



DALL SHEEP, ALASKA AND WESTERN CANADA



BACTRIAN CAMEL, ASIA



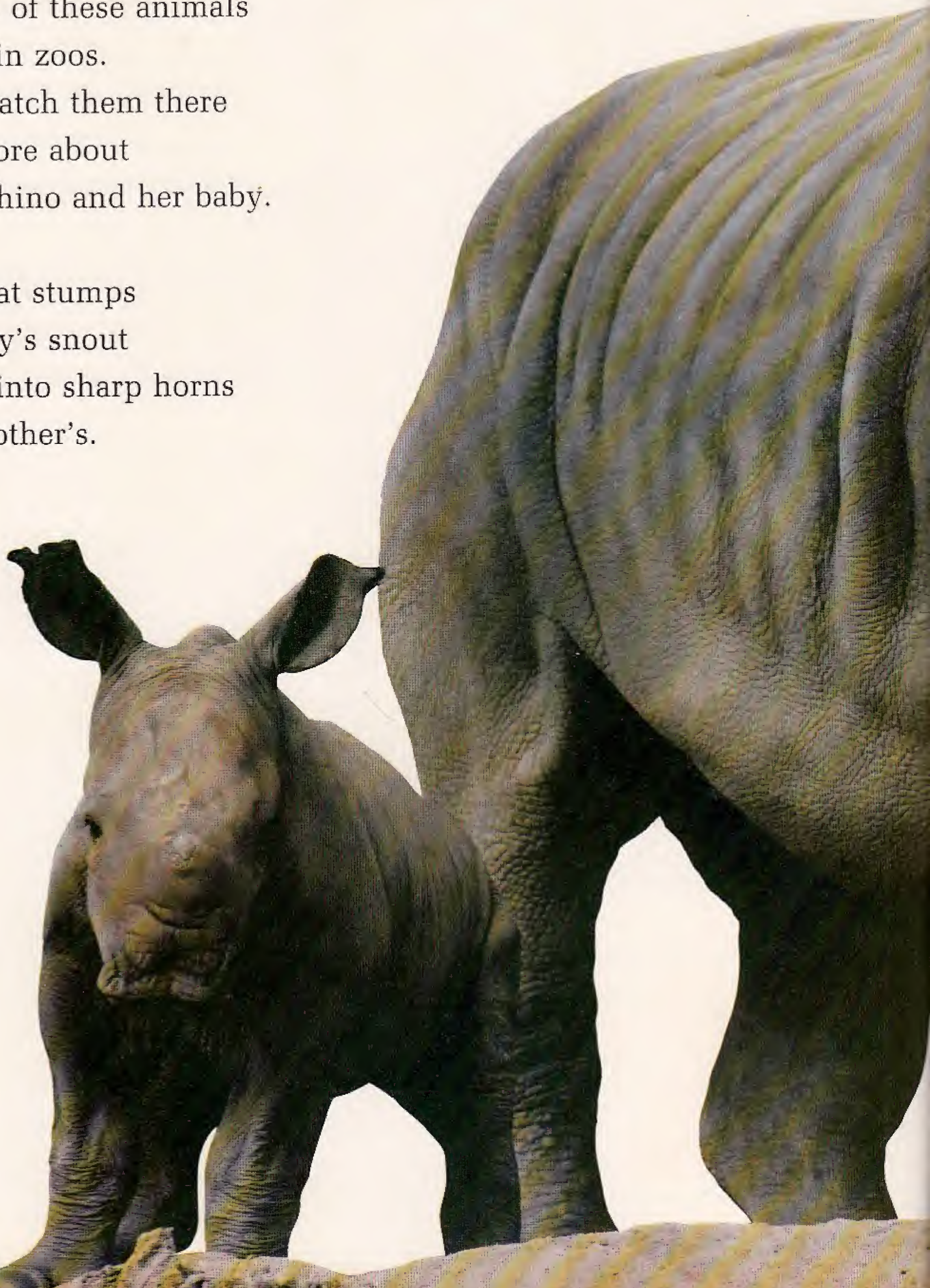
GRÉVY'S ZEBRA, EAST AFRICA



Peanuts and his mother are white rhinoceroses.
Once there were only a few of them
in the whole world.

Now many of these animals
are raised in zoos.
You can watch them there
to learn more about
a mother rhino and her baby.

The two flat stumps
on the baby's snout
will grow into sharp horns
like his mother's.





SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS, AFRICA



This zoo baby
became ill
and had to be taken

to the hospital.

She is another kind of rhino
called a black rhinoceros.

At first the mother rhino
didn't want to give up
her baby. She was so angry
she tried to ram the zoo truck.
The keeper put his own jacket
over the baby rhino
to keep her warm on the ride
to the hospital. The baby
will stay at the hospital
until she is well.



BLACK OR HOOK-LIPPED RHINOCEROS, AFRICA





WHITE-HANDED GIBBON, SOUTHEAST ASIA



Senin is a baby gibbon. She has no mother to take care of her. A worker at the zoo took the baby gibbon home to live with his family. Senin plays with everyone in the family—even the dog. She is weighed often to see how fast she is growing. When Senin grows up, she will live in the zoo.





This family of three orangutans sits close together. The tiny baby, named Chantek, rides on her mother's back.

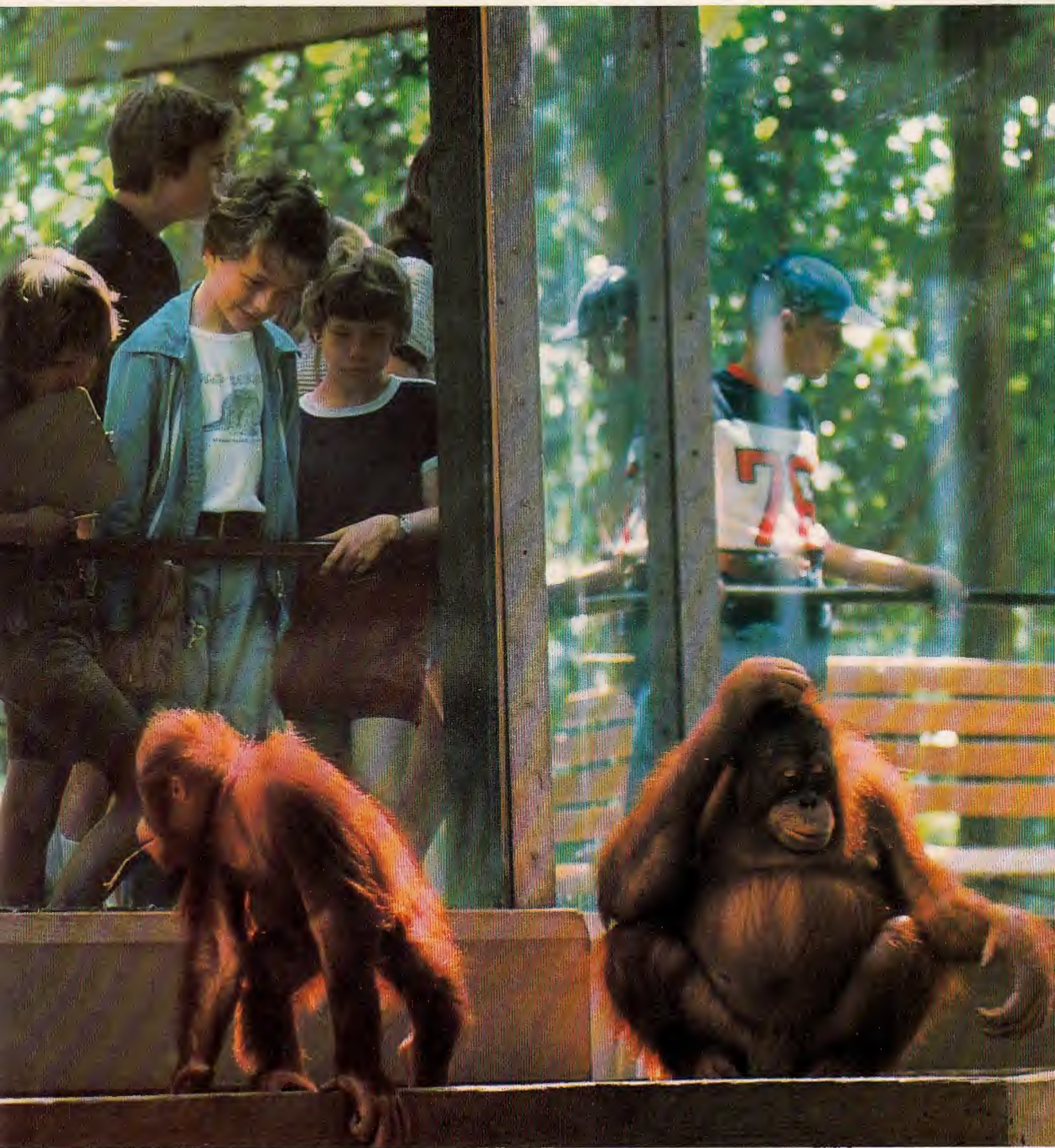


Another young orangutan, named Agnes, plays with her keeper. The keeper raised her and took care of her like a mother.



But soon it is time to join the other orangutans at the zoo. A new friend welcomes little Agnes with a kiss.





ORANGUTAN, BORNEO AND SUMATRA

These children enjoy watching the orangutans.
Which animals do you like to watch?



Which way is this ostrich going?

Both ways—because there are two.

These two chicks were hatched in a zoo,
in a heated box called an incubator.

When these chicks are grown,
they will stand as tall as a very tall man.

Ostriches are the largest birds in the world,
but they cannot fly.



OSTRICH, AFRICA







A mother caracal cleans
her baby with her tongue.
Do you think the kitten

likes its bath?

Afterward, the kitten sits
in the warm sunshine.

When it is hungry, the baby curls up
next to its mother and nurses.

Caracals belong to the cat family.

You can recognize them
by the long, black hair
on the tips of their ears.



CARACAL OR DESERT LYNX, AFRICA AND ASIA

A baby wallaby
spends much of
the time inside
its mother's pouch.
When the baby
wants to play,
it jumps out.



BENNETT'S WALLABY, TASMANIA

Even when it is a baby, a giraffe has a long, long neck.
The fur seal pup stands on its strong flippers.
When the Barbary lamb is grown, it will have horns, too.



MASAI GIRAFFE, EAST AFRICA



SOUTH AFRICAN FUR SEAL



BARBARY SHEEP OR AOUDAD, NORTH AFRICA

Zoos are fun.
We go there to see and enjoy
animals and their babies.
But zoos are also places
where we can learn many things
about the way animals live.

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A baby orangutan
needs nearly as much
tender care as a human baby.

